

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 059923

21

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INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:HEKIRBY:VSS

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: FY 76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MARCH 10 TO ASK THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE SENATE AND HOUSE CONFEREES TO REMOVE CEILING ON FMS SALES TO TURKEY WHICH APPEARS IN HOUSE VERSION OF FY 76 BILL. ESENBEL OBSERVED, AS HE HAS DONE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT HE BELIEVED THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT BEEN AS ACTIVE TO DATE AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN TRYING TO IMPROVE THE 76 LEGISLATION. HE ALSO EXPLAINED AGAIN THAT \$125 MILLION CEILING ON TURKISH PURCHASES WOULD NOT COME CLOSE TO MEETING TURKEY'S NEEDS FOR PURCHASES IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

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PAGE 02 STATE 059923

2. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS IN FACT

DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE BILL IN TURKEY'S FAVOR, PARTICULARLY AS IT RELATES TO ELIMINATING OR, IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, RAISING THE CEILING ON FMS CASH SALES. HARTMAN DETAILED THE CONTACTS ON THE HILL BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS IN THIS REGARD. HE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MENTIONED THE MATTER AT A RECENT MEETING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, THAT THE SECRETARY INTENDED TO RAISE

IT WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN A CLOSED SESSION THIS WEEK, AND THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE CONTACTING EACH OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE CONFEREES. HARTMAN SAID THAT WHILE WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO TRY TO GET THE CEILING ON CASH SALES ELIMINATED OR MODIFIED, WE ALSO WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT WE RETAIN THE FMS CREDIT FOR TURKEY CURRENTLY PROVIDED IN THE HOUSE BILL. HARTMAN EMPHASIZED, AS HE AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE FREQUENTLY DONE WITH ESENBEL IN RECENT WEEKS, THAT THE BILL THAT WILL FINALLY COME OUT OF CONFERENCE WILL BE AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS LEGISLATION. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE FY 77 ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION WHICH WILL BE MARKED UP A FEW WEEKS HENCE, AND OUR SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF A NEW US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WILL PRESENT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY TO REMOVE THE REMAINING RESTRICTIONS ON ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.

3. FYI. THERE HAS BEEN SOME SLIPPAGE IN THE SENATE/ HOUSE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE. CONFEREES ARE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF THE BILL ABOUT MARCH 11. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS COULD TAKE AS MUCH AS TWO WEEKS FOR REASONS LARGELY UNRELATED TO TURKEY. WE DO NOT KNOW THE ORDER IN WHICH THE CONFEREES EXPECT TO TAKE UP INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY ITEMS IN THE BILL.

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